

## Issues of urbanisation in the UK – subject summary

9.4.1 Describe factors which led to the growth of cities in the UK and the land use patterns within these.

### A map showing the location of major cities in the UK



### Factors influencing the location of urban areas in the UK:

1. **Coastal areas** have many settlements e.g. Liverpool and Southampton, this is because they can have large ports for trade.
2. **Lowland areas** e.g. Birmingham, are easy and cheap to build on, they often have milder climates.
3. **Natural resources** e.g. Newcastle and Leeds, had coal field sites, so jobs and industry.
4. **Along major rivers** e.g. London. Rivers were used for trade, a water source and defence.
5. **Bridging points** building at the narrowest, shallowest part of a river. So resources from both sides can be used. Bridging locations normally have 'ford' in their name e.g. Ox**ford**.

### Land use zones of cities – a general model



#### Key

- Central business district (CBD)
- Inner city
- Inner suburbs
- Outer suburbs

1. The above model shows the **typical land use pattern** in cities.
2. In the **centre** is the **CBD**, most cities have grown outwards from here. The value of land is high, due to businesses wanting to locate here.
3. Beyond here is the **'inner city.'** This is housing developed in the **19<sup>th</sup> century**. This is close to the CBD as people walked to work and into town during the time. The houses are **terraced**.
4. The outer area is the **suburbs**. The most modern area of housing, built during the inter-war period and onwards.

### CBD



1. Contains shops, offices, and restaurants.
2. Land use is commercial.
3. Centre of the city.
4. Most transport routes converge here.
5. Land value is high.

### Inner city



1. Houses in lines.
2. Built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
3. Houses are called terraced houses.
4. No front gardens, or garages.
5. High density.

### Suburbs



1. Detached homes.
2. In cul-de-sacs (a close).
3. Modern homes.
4. Low density.
5. Less pollution and crime.

### Key Terms:

1. **CBD (central business district)** – The middle of a town or city where most of the shops and offices are found.
2. **Rural-urban fringe** – The area where the countryside meets a city or town.
3. **Urban dereliction/ decay** – Abandoned buildings and waste land.
4. **Urban sprawl** – Unplanned growth of urban areas into surrounding rural areas.
5. **Counter-urbanisation** – The movement of people from urban areas into villages.
6. **Land use** – What the land is used for e.g. residential, commercial, industrial etc.
7. **Function** – Similar to land use, the function of certain parts of the city e.g. residential etc.

### Identify features of urban areas/ land use from OS maps:

#### Inner city



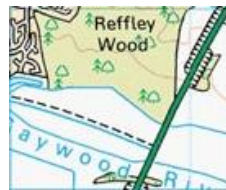
- On an OS map look for the following:
1. Roads in **straight lines**, this is evidence of terraced housing running back to back.
  2. Look to see if it is **close** to the **city centre** e.g. where lots of roads meet.

#### Suburbs



- On an OS map look for the following:
1. On the **outskirts** of the city.
  2. Small roads that come off main roads. The **small roads come to dead ends**.

#### Urban-rural fringe



- On an OS map look for the following:
1. The **edge of the city** where it meets the countryside.
  2. Look for **white spaces**, or wooded areas.
  3. May contain **retail parks** or **golf courses**.

9.4.2 Explain the causes of urban change and dereliction in the UK.

### The causes of urban change and dereliction in the UK:



#### Industrial decline/ deindustrialisation

1. Has left buildings empty in cities – **urban dereliction**.
2. The buildings are an eye sore.
3. Can lead to drug dens and crime.
4. Lack of jobs for many in the area as new industries locate on the outskirts of cities.



#### People move out (perceived impacts):

1. Those with money move to the **suburbs**.
2. Empty homes and crime become common in the inner city.
3. Those left behind are **poor** – urban deprivation / inequality.
4. Service such as schools and doctors suffer.
5. **High unemployment** leads to poor health and poor education.
6. Known as a **negative multiplier**

### Urban sprawl as a result of urban decay:



#### Urban decay/ dereliction leads to pressure on the rural-urban fringe:

1. New homes away from the inner city are built.
2. This is called **suburbanisation**.
3. Land is cheaper here as it is **'greenfield.'**
4. This damages habitats and farmland.
5. There is an increase in **'commuters.'**



#### The urban rural fringe has certain features:

1. Golf courses.
2. Out of town shopping.
3. Modern industrial sites.
4. New housing estates.
5. Country parks.

**9.4.2** Explain the causes of urban change and dereliction in the UK.

**Reducing urban sprawl:**

As suburbanisation has taken place urban areas have **sprawled (spread) outwards**, taking over the countryside. The government has tried to stop this.



1. **Greenbelts** have been placed around cities.
2. These must not be built upon.
3. They encourage developers to re-use **brownfield land** in the inner cities, by knocking down older buildings.
4. However, this is causing people to leave the city altogether to live in rural areas, beyond the greenbelt.

**Why is counter-urbanisation taking place in the UK? (perceived reasons):**

1. Villages are quieter.
2. There is less crime.
3. There is less noise, visual and air pollution.
4. People can still easily commute to work



**Consequences of counter-urbanisation for villages (perceived):**

1. As people from cities and towns move into villages it **increases house prices**, this means local villagers cannot afford the homes.
2. There is an **increase in commuters** in the local area, leading to noise and air pollution.
3. **Parking problems** as many new comers have 2 or 3 cars.
4. Some new **homes built**, as farmers sell off land, this damages the **rural landscape**, leading to lost habitats.
5. The **village shop** may suffer as newcomers use supermarkets in the city or order shopping via internet.
6. The **local primary school** becomes full, meaning some locals struggle to get their children a place.

**KPIs:**

- 9.4.1** Describe factors which led to the growth of cities in the UK and the land use patterns within these.
- 9.4.2** Explain the causes of urban change and dereliction in the UK.
- 9.4.3** Explain the ways in which urban areas can be made more sustainable.
- 9.4.4** Assess the effectiveness of a regeneration project in improving life within a city.

**9.4.3** Explain the ways in which urban areas can be made more sustainable.

**How are urban areas trying to be more sustainable?**

**Waste recycling:**

1. Using different coloured bins for certain waste.
2. This reduces the amount of waste going to **landfill**.
3. Less countryside destroyed.
4. Less **methane** being released from decomposing waste.



**Water conservation:**

1. Cities are regulating water use by using things such as **water meters** and dual flush toilets.
2. This stops water wastage.
3. Therefore, the supply is not at risk of running out.
4. It reduces the water taken from the countryside, leaving more for wildlife.



**Creating green space (urban greening):**

1. Encourages people to exercise leading to a **healthier lifestyle** and life expectancy improves.
2. Reduces the flood risk, as more infiltration and less surface run-off after rainfall.
3. Creates areas where **habitats can flourish**, for example wildflower verges; these support insects and reduce the chance of extinction.



**Energy conservation:**

1. **Renewable energies** e.g. solar and wind result in less fossil fuels being used.
2. **Less CO2** is positive in the fight against climate change.
3. **Less air pollution**, so less breathing disorders e.g. asthma.
4. **Cheaper bills** in the long run means people have more disposable cash.



**Improved transport systems:**

1. Improvements in public transport reduces the amount of **congestion** on the roads.
2. This means that people can get to work on time and deliveries are not late.
3. There is a **reduction in air pollution** and therefore a reduction in breathing disorders.
4. Examples include cycle lanes, bike hire e.g. Boris Bikes, trams and tube networks, bus lanes, car sharing lanes, congestion charging zones etc.



**9.4.4** Assess the effectiveness of a regeneration project in improving life within a city.

**Stratford regeneration, Elizabeth Park**

In 2012 Stratford, in the **East End** of London, held the Olympic games, allowing regeneration of the area to take place.



**The reasons for regeneration**

1. In 1981 the **London docks closed**, causing massive unemployment.
2. The area suffered from **urban dereliction** (empty buildings) and decline (people with money moved away).
3. In 2010 Stratford had the **lowest educational standards** in London and the **lowest life expectancy**.



**Regeneration has improved the sustainability of the area**

1. **9,000 affordable homes** created, which has eased overcrowding in the area and raised aspiration.
2. **Employment** opportunities have been created in the area, for example in Westfield shopping centre, with 8,000 jobs, this creates taxes and leads to a positive multiplier in the area.
3. **Integrated transport system:** Stratford International station has been created making it easier for visitors to get to the area, this has encouraged other businesses to set up.
4. **Olympic parkland (25 acres)** added to the site, giving areas for families to relax and use for leisure, as well as benefiting the habitats in the area.
5. **Stratford energy centre** provides power in the local area, it uses household waste as fuel, meaning that the amount of waste going to landfill is reduced.
6. **Brownfield land** which has been regenerated to create the site, so less pressure on the greenfield land on the outskirts of the city.



**Has it been sustainable for all?**

1. **450 homes owners** forced to move, so the new infrastructure could be built, resulting in the old community being broken up.
2. **Houses in Carpenters Estate (the undeveloped part)** have been left **empty**, vandalism and graffiti has taken place to some.
3. **Many of the new jobs** have **not** gone to those that lost their jobs during deindustrialisation.
4. **Inequality has increased in some areas of Carpenters Estate.**



